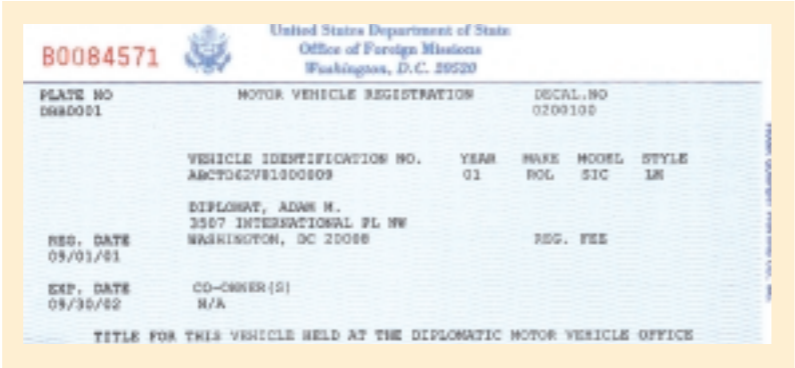


Vehicle Registration

All vehicles owned or operated by the diplomatic community must be registered with OFM/DMV. Titles are not issued upon registration but are obtained at the time of a vehicle's disposition; the registration card indicates the name(s) of the registered owner(s). Registration cards cannot be used to transfer ownership.



Vehicles registered with OFM/DMV must display DOS-issued license plates at their front and rear. Adhesive decals that represent the expiration month and year of the registration must be affixed to the rear license plates of each vehicle. DOS license plates are U.S. Government property and must be returned to OFM/DMV upon termination of mission duties or upon DOS demand. Lost or stolen plates must be reported immediately to the telephone number listed under Diplomatic Motor Vehicles Registrations on the contact list.

Below are examples of license plates issued to the diplomatic community. Most of the permanent license plates are issued in two formats: the new style with three alpha and four numeric digits and the old style with three alpha and three numeric digits. The new format is shown here.

Vehicles with DOS license plates:

➤ Must be covered by liability insurance.

➤ Are not generally subject to inspection.

➤ May not be sold or exported without DOS approval.

➤ Vehicle operators may hold DOS drivers licenses and are subject to the issuance of traffic citations.

➤ DOS driver licenses and vehicle registrations can be verified through NLETS (state code/ORI is "US")

DOS license plates indicate that the operator of a vehicle **may** be:

• entitled to diplomatic immunity

• unfamiliar with American customs and English language

• unfamiliar with local driving practices



Contact Information

- Office of Foreign Missions
Diplomatic Motor Vehicles

3507 International Place, NW
Washington, DC 20008
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Eastern Time, Monday – Friday
Registrations: (202) 895-3532
Driver Licenses: (202) 895-3521
All other times: (202) 647-7277
- Chicago Regional Office

77 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 2122
Chicago, IL 60604-1503
(312) 353-5762
- Honolulu Regional Office

300 Ala Moana Blvd, Suite 1-330
Honolulu, HI 96850-1330
(808) 522-8125
- Los Angeles Regional Office

10920 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1820
Los Angeles, CA 90024
(310) 235-6292
- Miami Regional Office

4000 N. Andrews Ave.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309
(954) 630-1146
- New York Regional Office

866 UN Plaza, Suite 265
New York, NY 10017-1811
(212) 826-4500
- San Francisco Regional Office

201 Mission St., Suite 2220
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 744-2910
- Office of Protocol

Protocol: Diplomatic and
Consular Liaison
(202) 647-1985
- Diplomatic Security

Diplomatic Security
Protective Liaison
3507 International Place, NW
Washington, DC 20008
(202) 647-7277
- Boston Field Office

10 Causeway Street, Suite 1001
Boston, MA 02222
(617) 565-8200
- Chicago Field Office

77 W. Jackson Street,
Suite 2121
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 353-6163
- Houston Field Office

Federal Building
1919 Smith Street, Suite 80
Houston, TX 77002
(713) 209-3482
- Los Angeles Field Office

255 East Temple Street,
Suite 1273
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 894-3290
- Miami Field Office

51 SW First Avenue
Federal Building, Suite 404
Miami, FL 33130
(305) 536-5781
- New York Field Office

26 Federal Plaza, Suite 3409
New York, NY 10278
(212) 264-1292
- San Francisco Field Office

235 Pine Street, Suite 900
San Francisco, CA 94104
(415) 705-1176
- Washington Field Office

2222 Gallows Road, Suite 300
Dunn Loring, VA 22027
(571) 226-9300

Copies of this flyer may be obtained through Diplomatic Motor Vehicles and OFM Regional Offices.



THE
DIPLOMATIC
BEAT

DRIVER LICENSE AND VEHICLE REGISTRATION



TO GUIDE AND ASSIST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN THE HANDLING OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PERSONNEL.



Introduction

During the nearly 20 years of its history, the U.S. Department of State Office of Foreign Missions has built a strong DMV program with the help of law enforcement agencies throughout the United States. An important OFM goal is to clearly explain the process of dealing with foreign diplomatic and consular personnel*, as well as offer our assistance with situations arising from diplomats’ infringements of local laws. We at OFM recognize the sensitive issues in dealing with diplomats who break these laws.

The law enforcement community performs a difficult and indispensable service on a daily basis protecting American citizens and their rights. It is also very important that municipal authorities help prevent abuse of diplomatic privileges and immunities. OFM and the Office of Protocol uphold both these missions: both offices serve the international community, and also protect Americans with whom our diplomatic community shares the roads.

We at OFM look forward to a continuing close association with the law enforcement community and to improving and strengthening our relationship. Our close partnership will enhance our ability to protect the American driving public while continuing our service to the foreign diplomatic community. If you have any questions about our Diplomatic Motor Vehicles program, please refer to the contact telephone numbers listed in this publication.

Theodore E. Strickler
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Foreign Missions
U.S. Department of State

***NOTE:** For the sake of brevity, foreign diplomatic and consular personnel will be referred to as diplomats. The diplomatic community includes diplomats, consular personnel, administrative and technical staff (A&T), and their family members.

Cover photo: Mike Brown, Metropolitan Police Department and Bernadette Moss, Office of Foreign Missions, reenact driving incident scenario involving a diplomat and law enforcement officer.

OFM and the Law Enforcement Community

Most people, including many in the law enforcement community, have never heard of the State Department’s Office of Foreign Missions (OFM). Many, however, have seen the distinctive red, white and blue license plates on the cars driven by diplomats in this country. Those plates are controlled and issued to the diplomatic community by the OFM’s Diplomatic Motor Vehicle office.

OFM’s Role with Foreign Diplomats

OFM interacts with the diplomats in a number of different ways. A few diplomats are under travel controls and require OFM permission to travel more than 25 miles from home. But our most comprehensive and best known program is the DMV function, which includes the licensing and registration of all diplomatic vehicles. OFM is also responsible for ensuring that diplomats who operate motor vehicles in the U.S. are treated uniformly and in accordance with local and federal regulations, as well as international law.

Diplomatic Immunity Does Not Mean Beyond the Reach of the Law

As with any group of 50,000 people, there are occasional infractions of local driving ordinances. The initial responsibility in these cases belongs to the law enforcement professionals. Despite the popular assumption about "diplomatic immunity" rendering diplomats beyond the reach of the law, the reality is far different. There are special procedures officials must follow, and we must do our best to make certain that diplomats are held accountable for their actions.

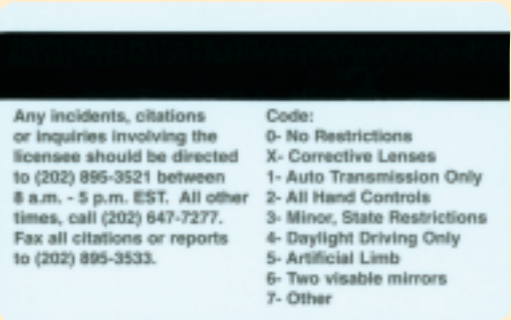
Who to Contact for Guidance

Most law enforcement personnel will only occasionally encounter a diplomat exceeding the speed limit or driving under the influence of alcohol. But it is important to understand what actions you may take and whom you can contact for guidance. This publication is designed to provide that information to law enforcement professionals throughout the country. Contact information is provided in this publication.

U.S. Department of State Driver License and Temporary License

The Diplomatic Motor Vehicles program of the Office of Foreign Missions, U.S. Department of State, is the sole driver licensing authority for diplomats assigned to the United States and their dependents. Foreign driver licenses may be used for only 30 days after the holder’s arrival in the United States. Any citations written against DOS driver licenses are to be reported to OFM/DMV.

Driver License



Description: The diplomatic driver license background is powder blue; lettering is dark blue, black, and red; there are holograms of the U.S. Department of State seal and the wording “U.S. Department of State” covering the front of the card.

Temporary Driver License



Description: The temporary driver license (above) bears the words “Temporary License” in red letters.